

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /031 W

----- 094277

R 171200Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5829

USUN NEW YORK 625

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3520

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG,MV

SUBJECT: MALDIVIAN DELEGATION TO THE 31ST UNGA

1. MAUMOON ABDUL GAYOOM AND MOHAMED MUSTHAPHA HUSSAIN, TWO-MAN MALDIVIAN DELEGATION TO THE 31ST UNGA CALLED ON AMBASSADOR REED MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 17. PARTY PLANS TO LEAVE COLOMBO SEPTEMBER 19 VIA SWISSAIR FLIGHT TO ZURICH AND CONTINUE ON TO NEW YORK BY THE NEXT AVAILABLE CONNECTING FLIGHT.

2. AMBASSADOR AGAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR MALDIVIAN SUPPORT ON KOREA QUESTION AND SAID HE HOPED THIS WOULD CONTINUE. GAYOOM MADE NO COMMITMENT BUT INDICATED GOM CONTINUES TO ACCEPT OUR ARGUMENTS ON ISSUE. WE FEEL WE CAN GAIN COUNT ON MALDIVIAN SUPPORT ON KOREA.

3. DELEGATES INDICATED SOME CONCERN OVER DIFFICULTY IN FINDING SUITABLE HOUSING AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS NEEDED TO RE-ESTABLISH "PERMANENT MISSION." IN FACT, WE WERE TOLD DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY STAY NO MORE THAN SIX MONTHS. THEY PLAN TO COVER ON REGULAR BASIS ONLY PLENARY AND COMMITTEES I AND II. WE SUGGESTED THAT MALDIVIANS GET IN TOUCH WITH USUN IF THEY HAD PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. GAYOOM WAS GRATEFUL FOR THIS SUGGESTION.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES A LITTLE ATTENTION PAID TO MALDIVIAN DELEGATION COULD PAY DIVIDENDS ON VARIOUS ISSUES OTHER THAN MIDDLE EAST. MALDIVIANS ARE SENSITIVE TO SLIGHTS OR RIDICULE BASED ON THEIR COUNTRY'S

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TIVE TO SLIGHTS OR RIDICULE BASED ON THEIR COUNTRY'S

SMALLNESS. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WOULD RECOMMEND THAT
AMBASSADOR SCRANTON PLAN SHORT MEETING WITH GAYOOM
AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE
TEN MINUTES WELL SPENT. WE ARE SENDING BIOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION BY SEPTTEL.
REED

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB03520
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760354-0828
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760950/aaaabqqb.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALDIVIAN DELEGATION TO THE 31ST UNGA
TAGS: PORG, OVIP, MV, UNGA, (GAYOOM, MAUMOON ABDUL), (HUSSAIN, MUSTHAPHA)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006